

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2003

The Honorable Colin Powell
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Powell,

Thank you for the Department's prompt response to our letter signed by 16 Members of Congress regarding the Coalition Provisional Authority's (CPA) procurement of electricity for Iraq.

While we understand the enormous importance of providing a reliable electricity supply for the Iraqi people, and we were pleased to hear that the CPA is not pursuing Iranian supplies, we were alarmed to learn that the CPA has established a "swap arrangement" with Syria, a country that supports and harbors terrorists, maintains programs to develop weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, occupies Lebanon and undermines our efforts to stabilize Iraq. Such an arrangement will bring financial benefits to the Ba'athist regime in Damascus and, at a time when the House of Representatives is poised to pass the Syria Accountability Act, send mixed messages about U.S. policy toward Syria.

Assistant Secretary Polt's letter states that the swap arrangement with Syria does not require the expenditure of any U.S. funds. While that may be true in a technical sense, it is clear that U.S. taxpayers are indirectly underwriting this arrangement. As you know, more than ten percent of the Iraq reconstruction funds requested by the President -- \$2.1 billion out of \$20.3 billion -- are designated for restoring oil production in Iraq.

If the CPA remains intent on pursuing this questionable deal with a terrorist regime, we would appreciate your personal assurance that there are no other viable alternatives for procuring electricity for Iraq, including additional supplies from Turkey or arrangements with Jordan, Kuwait or Saudi Arabia.

Thank you for your continuing attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



RAHM EMANUEL
Member of Congress



HOWARD L. BERMAN
Member of Congress



TOM LANTOS
Member of congress

cc: Hon. Henry Hyde